

MILE-A-MINUTE



Figure 1. Fruit bearing vines with triangular leaves.

The exotic plant mile-a-minute (*Polygonum perfoliatum*) infests parts of Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. This plant was recently reported in Pennsylvania as a forest weed pest. Annual vines grow rapidly in sunny areas to form dense mats that can suppress tree seedlings and stump sprouts. Fruits that are distributed by animals are borne in large numbers in late summer.

Additional reports of mile-a-minute infestation are necessary to determine its distribution and allow assessment of damage on forest sites.

To report infested stands or to receive further information, please contact:

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Figure 2. Immature fruit cluster, saucer-shaped sheaths, recurved spines. Mature fruits are purple.



Figure 3. Dense mats of red, intertwined vines.



Figure 4. Mile-a-minute caused failure of this conifer plantation established three years earlier.